

## **CHRIST OUR ADVOCATE**

1 John 2:1-2

- Good news—God desires our fellowship (1:3).
- Bad news—God is Holy and cannot fellowship with sin (1:5-6). Sin breaks fellowship (2:1a).
- Good news—Jesus Christ restores fellowship through being an Advocate (2:1b).

➔ **“Advocate”** only occurs one time in a KJV. **WHAT IS AN ADVOCATE?**  
One who pleads the cause or case of another—A defense attorney/  
lawyer.

Our text suggests a scene in the courtroom of heaven:

- God is the **Judge**
- We are the **Defendant** / the Accused (presupposes our transgression).
- Satan is the **Prosecutor** (Accuser).
- Jesus Christ is our **“Advocate”—Defense Attorney**. Jesus stands before God on our behalf to plead our case.

**I. An advocate must be **AUTHORIZED**.** (Not just anybody can come before the court to plead a case. The advocate must be *qualified*—A Lawyer must pass a “bar exam” regarding the law).

➔ Jesus Christ is the ACCEPTED One in God’s courtroom. He is the APPOINTED One to defend us. Therefore, He is the AUTHORIZED One. In legal terms, He has been “called to the bar.”

A. What gives Jesus Christ the right to plead the case of the believer?  
Note what the verse says: *“Jesus Christ **the righteous.**”*

1. God is perfect, and only one who is perfect can stand in God’s presence. Jesus Christ alone is perfect. He alone has the right to stand in God’s court as the Advocate to represent man.
2. This means, God will never turn down a person who has Jesus Christ as his Advocate.

B. Jesus is qualified on the basis of His two-fold nature—The God/man.

1. As God, He is accepted as being **RIGHTEOUS**;
2. As Man, He is qualified to represent the likes of you and me. He was *“in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*

- C. “If any man sin we have an *ADVOCATE* with the Father, Jesus Christ the *RIGHTEOUS*...” “**If any man sin...**” what then?
1. In that event, we are not told what we *are*, but who Christ *IS*—*an ADVOCATE!*
  2. We are not reminded of what *we’ve* done, but what *HE* has done—“*He is the PROPITIATION for our sins!*” He has already paid for your crime. He suffered in your place. He satisfied the demands of the law!

Before Fiorello LaGuardia was Mayor of New York, he was a probate judge. One day a man was brought before him who was found guilty of stealing a loaf of bread. LaGuardia fined him \$10.00 and then took out his own wallet and paid the fine himself. Then he fined *the court* \$50.00 for living in a town where any man had to steal bread to keep from starving. Then he took up a *collection* for the thief and set him on his way with \$47.50 in his pocket! **This is what Jesus did for us!**

## II. An advocate must be **ASTUTE**. (Wise; discerning).

- To properly represent a client, an Advocate must know the Law.
  - He must know the rules of the Court.
  - He must be aware of the strategies of the prosecuting attorney.
  - He must understand the case at hand and the implications of that case.
  - He must be sensitive to the position and needs of his client.
- A. Jesus knows the Law—He is the Lawgiver!
  - B. Jesus is acquainted with the Judge—He is the Son of the Judge!  
One legal phrase used to describe an advocate is “a friend of the court.”
  - C. Jesus knows the tricks of the devil. He’s been dealing with the devil for over 6,000 years.
  - D. Jesus understands our situation! He is not only “a Friend of the Court” He is also “*a Friend sinners.*” He understands our human frame. Therefore He has a basis upon which to make His plea.
    - ➔ **What does Jesus Christ plead?**
      - He does not plead our reputation.
      - He does not plead our good works.
      - He does not plead we tried the best we can.
      - He does not plead our innocence—that we did not commit sin.

**A lawyer may be employed for two purposes:**

1. To defend the accused against the charge to prevent his conviction.
2. To secure a *pardon*, when a criminal has been found guilty, or to obtain *mercy* for him—
  - Jesus does not defend us against the charge of sin. Our guilt is already settled. The Bible says we are condemned already.
  - Jesus does not plead at the bar of justice, but at “*the throne of grace*” and mercy.
  - He is employed, not to prevent our *conviction*, but to prevent our *execution*.

➔ **What does Jesus Christ plead?** Note the verse: “*We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ THE RIGHTEOUS.*” He pleads His own righteousness.

**III. An advocate must be *ACCESSIBLE*** (available).

Some lawyers only make their services available to a certain caliber of client. They are only interested in representing the “high society” crowd. Aren’t you glad we have a “Lawyer” that is not for sale! He is not even for hire—His services are FREE!

- A. Jesus has never turned down a client who came to Him for help—  
“*If ANY MAN sin...*” He’s never too busy... He’s not interested in your income... He’s not concerned about what you are accused of.
- B. His accessibility is not based on what we can pay Him. It is based on His LOVE and MERCY for sinners like you and me.
- C. He represent any who will humbly admit their need to Him. His doors are always open—His ears are always listening.

**IV. An advocate must be *APPEALING*** (His success rate).

Several years ago our church needed a lawyer. I called my friend Pastor Blue and asked if he knew of a good lawyer. He recommended one. I asked, “How do you know this lawyer?” Bro. Blue answered, “I’ve used him on several occasions myself. He has always represented me fairly and thoroughly. He has never lost one of my cases.

- A. Jesus Christ has **never lost a case!** He cannot fail because He pleads on the basis of His merits, not our merits.

B. He gave His life for His clients, and that carries a lot of weight in God's Courtroom.

Jesus Christ is "*the propitiation for our sins.*" "**Propitiation**" means a covering, a payment, a satisfaction, an appeasement for sin. It means the problem has been removed and there is no more cause to be angry.

Remember: Although God is love, He is also holy and just. Therefore, He must execute justice against the sinner. His justice must be satisfied.

There is only one way God's justice can be perfectly satisfied: His justice must be directed against the perfect sacrifice. Jesus Christ came as the Perfect Man. As that Perfect Man He took the guilt and punishment of our sin and thereby satisfied the justice of God. God accepts Jesus' death...

- as the *sacrifice* for our sins.
- as the *covering* for our sins.
- as the *satisfaction* for our sins.
- as the *payment* for the penalty of our sins.
- as the *appeasement* of His wrath against sin.

Every case Jesus represents ends with the verdict—NOT GUILTY!

Though the restless foe accuses—  
Sins recounting like a flood,  
Ev'ry charge our God refuses;  
Christ has answered with His blood.

**SUMMATION:** Jesus Christ is ***the propitiation*** for the sins of the *whole world*. But, a person must come to Jesus and trust Him to be his Advocate before God. Jesus is only the Advocate of those who received Him as their Lord and Savior.

A man testified about his struggles against Satan: "The devil was tempting me yesterday. I tried to answer him, but he was an old lawyer and understood the law better than I did. So I gave up arguing with him.

I said to Satan, "I have turned my case over to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is my Advocate and is now representing me. So, if you need an answer about what you accuse me of, take it up with my Lawyer, Jesus Christ. With that, the devil flees."

Does Jesus represent YOU before God? Is He YOUR Advocate?